

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-23, and 26-44 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-4, 8, 14, 19-23, and 26-44. The present amendment amends Claims 11, 19, 22, and 26, Claims 6, 13, 24 and 25 having been previously canceled.

The present amendment corrects informalities uncovered in Claims 11, 19, 22, and 26 during a post allowance review of the present application. Claim 11 is amended to depend from Claim 1, and Claims 22 and 26 are amended to conform the language of these claims in regard to "holes" recited therein to the recitation of "holes" in Claim 1. Claim 19 is amended to no longer depend from canceled Claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request that dependent Claims 5, 7, 9-12, and 15-18, previously withdrawn from consideration be allowed along with generic Claim 1. The Notice of Allowance mailed on December 15, 2004 indicated that the Restriction Requirement is withdrawn and that Claim 1 is generic. However, the Notice of Allowance only lists Claims 1-4, 8, 14, 19-23, and 26-44 as allowable. MPEP § 809 states "Any claim(s) directed to the nonelected invention(s), previously withdrawn from consideration, which depends from or includes all the limitations of the allowable linking claim must be rejoined and will be fully examined for patentability." Therefore, it is respectfully requested that a Supplemental Notice of Allowance indicating that dependent Claims 5, 7, 9-12, and 15-18 are allowed be sent to the undersigned.

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Application No. 09/981,987
Reply to Notice of Allowance of December 15, 2004

Accordingly, Applicants acted diligently to submit this amendment and entry thereof prior to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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